GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:301
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
WINDING UP OF TASK FORCE ON LINKING OF RIVERS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to wind up the Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Task Force has since submitted two action plan reports including linking of 30 rivers starting with two rivers in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(e) whether in view of recent flood situations in Bihar, Assam and North Bengal the Government proposes to interlink some rivers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be done?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 301 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.8.2004 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING WINDING UP OF TASK FORCE ON LINKING OF RIVERS.

(a) & (b) No final decision in respect of the winding up of the Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers has been taken by the Government so far.

(c) The Task Force has submitted two action plan reports not specific to any of the linking projects. It has carried out general review of all the 30 river link proposals and has also suggested two river link proposals in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for taking up Detailed Project Reports.

(d) The Task Force submitted Action Plan−I on 30th April, 2003 giving the outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project etc. Action Plan − II was submitted on 16.4.2004. The important issues such as appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans; suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States; prioritization of the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation; suitable organizational structure for implementing the project; various modalities for project funding; international dimensions that may be involved in some project components and cost recovery have been discussed in Action Plan-II. The Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of the project.

(e) & (f) The Himalayan Component of the National Perspective Plan envisages a number of interlinking proposals which provide some flood control benefits to Bihar, Assam and North Bengal. The implementation of these link proposals is dependent upon the comprehensive assessment and the agreements reached amongst the concerned States /neighbouring countries.